We claim:

## 1) Compounds of the general formula (I)

$$H_3C - S = M$$

$$N = N$$

$$A$$

$$(I)$$

## 5 where

M represents two hydrogen atoms or one metal ion selected from the group consisting of Cu, Co, Ni, Mn, Zn and Al;

A is

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$$\begin{bmatrix} SO_3 \cdot J_n & X_n^+ \\ X_n & X_n \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} SO_3 \cdot J_n & X_n^+ \\ X_n & X_n \end{bmatrix}$$

 $R^1$  is H, OH or -NH-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>a</sub>-SO<sub>3</sub>-X<sup>+</sup> where a is from 1 to 6;

R<sup>2</sup> is H or a radical of the formulae

$$-N = N$$
 $R^1$ 
 $[SO_3^-]_n X_n^+$ 

$$- N = N - D - N = N$$

$$[SO_3^-]_n X_n^+$$

5 D is  $C_6H_4$ ,  $C_6H_3$ (OH) or  $C_6H_3$  (OCH<sub>3</sub>); X is H, alkali metal, NH<sub>4</sub>,  $C_1$ - $C_{18}$ -alkyl-NH<sub>3</sub>,  $(C_1$ - $C_{18}$ -alkyl)<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>,  $(C_1$ - $C_{18}$ -alkyl)<sub>3</sub>NH,  $(C_1$ - $C_{18}$ -alkyl)<sub>3</sub>CNH<sub>3</sub>,  $(C_1$ - $C_{18}$ -alkyl)<sub>2</sub>CHNH<sub>3</sub>, or  $(C_1$ - $C_{18}$ -alkyl)<sub>4</sub>N, and n is from 1 to 4.

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2) A compound as claimed in claim 1, characterized by the formulae (IIa) to (IIf)

$$H_3C - S$$

$$N = N$$

$$[SO_3 \cdot ]_n \quad X_n^+$$

$$H_3C - S$$

$$N = N$$

$$[SO_3^-]_n \quad X_n^+$$

$$H_3C - S$$

$$N = N$$

$$SO_3X$$
(IIc)

$$H_3C - S$$
 $N = N$ 
 $N = N$ 
 $SO_3$ - $J_n X_n$ 

$$H_3C - S$$

$$N = N$$

$$H_3C$$

$$[SO_3-]_n X_n^+$$

$$H_3C$$
 $NH$ 
 $N = N$ 
 $N = N$ 

3) A compound as claimed in claim 1, characterized by the formulae (IIIa) or (IIIb)

$$H_3C - S$$

$$N = N$$

$$SO_3X$$

$$(IIIa)$$

4) A compound as claimed in claim 1, characterized by the formula (IVa) or (IVb)

$$H_3C$$
 $N = N$ 
 $N = N$ 
 $SO_3X$ 
 $SO_3X$ 
 $SO_3X$ 
 $SO_3X$ 
 $SO_3X$ 
 $SO_3X$ 

$$H_3C$$
 $NH$ 
 $N = N$ 
 $N = N$ 
 $SO_3X$ 
 $SO_3X$ 
 $SO_3X$ 
 $SO_3X$ 
 $SO_3X$ 

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- 5) A process for preparing a compound as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 4, which comprises 2-di(methanesulfonyl)amidoaniline being diazotized, the resulting diazonium salt being coupled with a coupling component corresponding to ring system A, one of the two methanesulfonamide groups being detached and optionally the resulting azo compound being reacted with a Cu, Co, Ni, Mn, Zn or Al salt.
- 6) The use of a compound as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 4 for dyeing and printing natural or synthetic fiber materials, for recording script and images on recording media, for pulp coloring paper or celluloses and also as a colorant in printing inks, lacquers, paints, plastics, rubber materials, office articles, wood coatings and cleaners and artists' colors.
- 7) The use of claim 6 as a colorant in inkjet inks and electrophotographic toners.

8) A recording fluid including 0.1 to 50% by weight in total of at least one compound as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 4 and also optionally of a shading colorant, reckoned as dry weight, 0 to 99% by weight of water and 0.5 to 99.5% by weight of organic solvent and/or humectant.

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9) The use of a recording fluid as claimed in claim 8 in an ink set consisting of the colors black, yellow, cyan, magenta, optionally orange and optionally green.